

CBS EVENING NEWS
28 December 1983

PENTAGON/
BEIRUT REPORT

RATHER: The Pentagon today finally was allowed to release its report on the bombing in Beirut that killed 241 U.S. servicemen. Release of the findings was delayed twice by the White House, worried about public opinion. President Reagan yesterday tried to soften the report's impact by taking all blame himself and relieving the rest of the chain of command from any responsibility. Pentagon correspondent David Martin tells us it is now much clearer why Mr. Reagan and his aides were so worried.

MARTIN: The report is mainly a postmortem of what happened that Sunday in Beirut. (Oct. 23 footage of Marines headquarters in Beirut after bombing) But its most politically explosive findings deal with the future. The commission recommends an urgent reassessment of the policy which is keeping the Marines in Lebanon. It says security for the Marines is still not adequate, that the threat to Americans in Lebanon is increasing. The report reveals that just five days before the bombing General Bernard Rogers, the commander of U.S. forces in Europe, recommended that consideration be given to pulling the Marines out of Lebanon. The commission also recommends that the U.S. go on the offensive in combating terrorism. It calls the Marine bombing an 'act of war' and suggests the U.S. resort to warlike acts of its own against terrorist. Foreign governments that support terrorism should be confronted with political and

military consequences. A wider range of military options needs to be identified. The report also singles out the human failures which led to the Marine massacre. More than 100 car bomb warnings were issued in the months preceding the bombing, but U.S. intelligence agencies had no way to check them out. The commission blames that on earlier decisions to reduce the CIA's networks of agents overseas -- a criticism firmly denied by the director of the CIA during the Carter administration. STANSFIELD TURNER (Former CIA Director): We made no reduction whatsoever in the number of operatives out there in the field doing the job.

MARTIN: Despite the intelligence failures, the report makes clear there was ample warning the Marines were in danger. Following the April bombing of the U.S. Embassy, a counter-terrorist expert visited Beirut and wrote a report predicting the embassy bombing was the prelude to a more spectacular attack and that U.S. military forces were the most logical target. Security was improved for U.S. servicemen

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